

Fun Facts: Women's History Month

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How It All Started

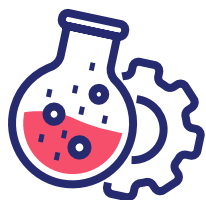
National Women's History Month traces its roots to March 8, 1857, when women from various New York City factories staged a protest over poor working conditions. The first Women's Day celebration in the United States was in 1909, also in New York City.

More than seven decades later, Congress in 1981 established National Women's History Week to be commemorated annually the second week of March in 1981. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month and every year since has passed a resolution (and the president has issued a proclamation) designating March Women's History Month.

STEM Careers on the Rise

- In 1970, women made up **8%** of STEM* workers and **38%** of workers overall.
- By 2019, women in STEM occupations had more than tripled to **27%** and women made up about **48%** of the workforce.

Note: STEM is science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEM jobs include computer specialists, mathematicians, and engineers. STEM-related occupations consist of architects and healthcare workers.



Women in the Workplace

- More than half (**58%**) of women ages 16 and older participated in the workforce in 2021.
- They made up **47%** of the workforce.

Civic Duty

- A higher percentage of women 18 years and over were registered to vote and participated more in the voting process than men.
- In 2020, **63%** of women voted, compared to **59.5%** of men.

Female Population

About 168 million. There were 167,509,003 women living in the United States – or **50.5%** of the population in 2021.



Average Age of Women Giving Birth Is Going Up

In 2021, more women ages 30 to 34 had a recent birth than women ages 25 to 29; In 2011, the reverse was true; more women ages 25 to 29 had a recent birth than women ages 30 to 34.



Did You Know?

Did you know there were about **1.7 million more** females aged 85 and older (4 million) than males. (2.3 million) in 2021?

Educational Attainment

Among women ages 25 and older:

- **25%** have a high school diploma or equivalency.
- **10%** have an associate degree.
- **22%** have a bachelor's degree.
- **14%** have a graduate or professional degree.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, 2021 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates; 2021 Population Estimates; 2020 presidential voting and registration tables; census bureau history.